

Boulder Suzuki Strings News

Volume 17, Issue 1

“I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy;
but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and
all the arts are the keys to learning.”

-Plato

Welcome to Boulder Suzuki Strings 2013-2014

The faculty and I want to welcome the new families to Boulder Suzuki Strings and, of course, a big hello to all the returning students and their parents.

We want this musical journey to be successful and enjoyable for all. We have been busy working during the summer planning the year for the students.

We are always striving to help you and your child as you study violin, viola or cello for what we hope will be many years beyond high school.

The first group is Friday, September 6th. We have planned a welcome meeting for parents on October 4th to answer your questions about our program and the Suzuki method.

We look forward to a wonderful year. See you all on Friday, September 6th, at group.

Sincerely,

Amy Gesmer-Packman

Director

Suzuki Concert Clothing Exchange:

Oops – they’re flood pants once again!! Weary of purchasing those “once worn” black and whites? Bring your “too small” concert attire to group lessons on September 20th to the clothing exchange and shop for the next sizes. Look for us in the lobby of Mountain View group church. Don’t worry, if you’ve already recycled last spring’s clothing, save your black and whites for the next clothing exchange and come shop anyway. Thanks for participating!

Memorial Day Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference:

BSS is submitting an application to perform at the 2014 SAA conference over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-26th. Advanced musicians, save the date!

Why Study Music?

1. Children who study music tend to have larger vocabularies and more advanced reading skills than their peers who do not participate in music lessons.
2. Research shows that music is to the brain as physical exercise is to the human body. Music tones the brain for auditory fitness and allows it to decipher between tone and pitch.
3. Children who study a musical instrument are more likely to excel in all of their studies, work better in teams, have enhanced critical thinking skills, stay in school, and pursue further education.
4. In the past, secondary students who participated in a music group at school reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs).
5. Regardless of socioeconomic status or school district, students who participate in high-quality music programs score 22% better on English and 20% better on math standardized exams.
6. Much like expert technical skills, mastery in arts and humanities is closely correlated to high earnings.
7. A study from Columbia University revealed that students who study arts are more cooperative with their teachers and peers, have higher levels of self-confidence, and are more equipped to express themselves and their ideas.
8. Elementary age children who are involved in music lessons show greater brain development and memory improvement within a year than children who receive no musical training.
9. Learning and mastering a musical instrument improves the way the brain breaks down and understands human language, making music students more apt to pick up a second language.

Opportunity for young children

Boulder Suzuki Strings is proud to announce its sponsorship of Prelude Music Class! Prelude is a Suzuki Early Childhood Education group class for children and their parent/caregiver from birth through age 3½. These “Suzuki baby” classes will be offered in Boulder and in Broomfield. The class is different from franchised music classes such as Kindermusic and Music Together as the class has a curriculum that evolves with the child as he/she gets older and masters skills. Also, it is ongoing, having a goal of the child staying in the class until he/she graduates near the age of 4. Two of our BSS faculty members, Flori Muller and Stacey Brady, will be co-teaching the classes which create an environment for children to develop basic preschool and musical skills as well as hone in on Suzuki philosophical and educational goals. These classes serve as a foundation and an easy transition into starting an instrument such as the violin, viola or cello. Please pass the word along to families with young children. You can find a link on the BSS website or visit PreludeMusicClass.com.

2013/2014 Important Dates

Please add the following dates to your calendars for the 2013/2014 school year. Times for group classes are 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm.

Fall Semester 2013

- Friday, September 6th – Group
- Friday, September 20th – Group
- Friday, October 4th – Group and Parent meeting (Parent Meeting 4:30-5:00 – Sanctuary)
- Friday, October 25th - Group
- Saturday, October 26th – Halloween Concerts – see page 4 for details
- Friday, November 1st – Solo Recital Run-throughs
- Friday and Saturday, November 15th and 16th – Solo Recitals
- Friday, December 6th – Group
- Saturday, December 7th – Holiday Concerts – see page 4 for details
- Friday, December 13th – Group/Dinner/Ensemble Concert
- Saturday, December 14th – Holiday Concerts – see page 4 for details

Spring Semester 2014

- Friday, January 10th – Group
- Friday, January 31st – Group
- Friday, February 21st – Group
- Friday, March 7th – Group
- Friday, March 14th – Group followed immediately by Tour Group Concert in the Sanctuary. Plan to stay for this exciting performance by the 2014 BSS Tour Group before we depart the following week.
- Friday, March 21st – Monday, March 31st – Tour to Costa Rica
- Friday, April 4th – Group
- Saturday, April 5th – Rehearse Senior Solos at BVCC
- Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th – Spring Workshop at BVCC
- Friday, April 25th – Solo Recital Run-throughs
- Friday and Saturday, May 2nd and 3rd – Solo Recitals

[View these dates on our Google Calendar:](https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=bouldersuzukistrings%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Denver)

<https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=bouldersuzukistrings%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Denver>

A note from our hosts:

Mountain View requests that there be no unattended children in any room or on the playground at any time. They also request that BSS families use only those rooms where group classes are held. Please be respectful of the church and keep your children with you.

Halloween Concerts

Sign ups for concerts will be on-line. Please look for information as we get closer to the concert dates. Arrival for all concerts is 15 minutes before the concert is scheduled to begin.

- Saturday, October 26th, Barnes and Noble, 2999 Pearl St., Boulder 12 p. m. performance time. Wear costumes.
- Saturday, October 26th, The Meridian, 801 Gillaspie, Boulder, 3 p. m. performance time. Wear costumes.
- Saturday, October 26th, Boo Bash at Flatiron Crossing Mall, Dillard's Court, 3:45 p. m. Wear costumes.

Nothing can compare to the live concert experience! Below is a list of area concerts including Boulder Suzuki teachers and students:

- Sept. 8th, Boulder Philharmonic "surf & turf" concert including BSS group teacher Veronica Pigeon and featuring Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Macky Auditorium, 7:30 p. m. www.boulderphil.org/concerts/opening-night-formations.
- Saturday, Sept. 14th, BSS Student Alexis Pring will perform the Haydn Concerto in G Major, 1st movement with the Flatirons Community Orchestra, Harvest Church, 7493 Old Mill Trail, Gunbarrel, 4 p.m.
- Sept. 14th, Boulder Symphony free concert at Boulder Farmer's Market, 12:30 p. m.
- Sept. 21st, Boulder Symphony concert featuring Symphony No. 7 by Beethoven, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, 7 p. m.
- Sept. 26th, Jayme Stone & The Other Side Of Air Live in Concert at eTown Hall featuring Jayme Stone (banjo), Enion Tiller (voice, violin), John Gunther (woodwinds), Eric Thorin (Bass), Mark Dalio (drums) with Chas Wetherbee (violin), Emily Bowman (viola), Ann Marie Morgan (cello), 7:30 p. m. www.etown.org/jayme-stone.
- Sept. 27th-28th, Vespers in Venice performed by the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado featuring BSS teacher Stacey Brady on violin. www.bcocolorado.org.
- Oct. 11th, Boulder Symphony Chamber Concert, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, 7 p. m.
- Oct. 12th, Sphere Ensemble performs with Ars Nova singers, First United Methodist Church, Boulder, 7:30 p. m., www.sphereensemble.org.

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Upcoming Community Concerts (continued)...

- Oct. 26th, Boulder Symphony Halloween Pops concert, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, 2 p. m.
- Oct. 26th, Come hear BSS teachers Stacey Brady and Emily Bowman perform the music of Purcell with Seicento Baroque choir, First United Methodist Church, 1421 Sphere St., 7:30 p. m.
www.seicentobaroque.org.
- Nov. 3rd, Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra concert in Macky. Many BSS students are members of the orchestras! BSS teacher Emily Bowman will conduct a world premiere written for the Philharmonic orchestra., 2 p. m.,
www.greaterboulderyo.org.
- Nov. 8th, The Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado performs "Handel at the Opera" at the Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Rd, including BSS teachers Emily Bowman, Stacey Brady and Carla Sciaky in the orchestra. 7:30 p. m.,
www.bcocolorado.org.
- Nov. 15th, Boulder Symphony Chamber concert, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, 7 p. m.
- Dec. 7th, Boulder Symphony concert featuring Symphony No. 4 by Mahler, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, 7 p. m.
- Dec. 8th, Boulder Opera Company performing the Magic Flute by Mozart, Broomfield Auditorium, 1:30 p. m.
- Dec. 13th, Boulder Opera Company performing the Magic Flute by Mozart, Nomad Theater, 1:30 and 4 p. m.
- Dec. 15th, Boulder Opera Company performing the Magic Flute by Mozart, Nomad Theater, 12 and 3 p. m.

Billing Information:

Dear BSS Families,

At this time, you should have received your bill for fall semester. We are currently switching over to a new data system, so your bill will look slightly different. However, our policies have remained the same. Your first payment is due in September and you may choose to pay all at once or to split your bill into two equal payments. For those of you who signed up for Automated Withdrawal payments, your bill will be divided into 4 equal payments and withdrawn from your account of choice at the beginning of September, October, November, and December. No refunds are given if you terminate lessons, and only one make-up lesson per semester is given at the teacher's discretion. We do not accept credit cards at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns about your bill, or if you would like to discuss other payment options, please feel free to contact Stacey Brady at alpbrady@yahoo.com.

Thank you,
BSS Faculty

From a BSS student about Peaks to Plains Suzuki Institute:

Since last year was my first year of Advanced Chamber Camp, and I was already familiar with many of the people and routines there, I expected the upcoming week to be almost identical, if not similar. When it wasn't, I was pleasantly surprised. For one, the entire PPSI was moved to a different building a couple of blocks away, which was smaller and more "kindergarten through 3rd grade" oriented. But this change was pretty easily overcome, and as such I grew used to the new place and its rooms. However, the biggest surprise would have to be the music the Phoenix quartet had chosen for us. The piece had a simple enough name, it being "Quartet for 4 Violins". But, it was composed by a woman from Poland that no one, including the Phoenix quartet themselves, had ever heard about. Then the usual "composer research" turned up interesting facts that helped us learn about the composer's style and why the piece sounded the way it did. And that was the biggest change of everything at camp. Instead of playing things like Mozart, Brahms, or Boccherini, like the other groups did, my ensemble got a dissonant, weird, slightly off-kilter gypsy-dance thing that in one part I described it as sounding "like cats in a car accident", especially because no one in my group had gotten a chance to practice the intonation and shifts, making it sound worse. After a week's worth of hard-core practicing, including an hour-long session on a single phrase, however, at the final concert of Chamber Camp, my quartet and I played it so nicely and on-key that the audience members enjoyed listening to us, as I had hoped, and I am hopeful that the next time I come, my chamber group will get another piece that stands out from the usual classical music.

~Helena Schumann